

### **Suggested Readings**

Blomquist, C. (2004). *Box turtles*. New York: PowerKids Press.

This book presents factual information about the different subspecies of box turtle. Information presented in this book includes physical traits of the box turtle as well as the turtle's habitat, diet, behavior and predators. The straightforward nature of this book makes it adaptable and complementary to any science lesson plan that incorporates the ornate box turtle from San Jose State's SERC Center. Notably, this book would serve as an excellent class library reference for students who need to gather information for reports on the ornate box turtle.

Blomquist, C. (2004). *Desert tortoises*. New York: PowerKids Press.

They survive in America's hottest places without breaking a sweat. How do these little diggers do it? This book reveals the sandy, slow-moving world of desert tortoises, the microhabitats they create, and the behavior patterns and body adaptations that have kept them alive in the desert for more than one million years. Get kids excited about hibernation, estivation (a period of summer hibernation), and turtle conservation with an up-close look at the peaceful desert tortoise.

Fontes, J., Fontes, R., & Motoyama, K. (2003). *How the turtle got its shell*. New York: Golden.

This book contains three folk stories from around the world answering the very important question of how the turtle got its shell. After completing their own inquiries children will enjoy this literature connection.

Jacobs, F., & Cassels, J. (2003). *Lonesome George, the giant tortoise*. New York: Walker & Company.

This true story encapsulates the life of George, possibly the last surviving member of a Galapagos Island subspecies that once inhabited the island Pinta. After fishermen brought goats to the island and the ecosystem was disrupted, scientists

generally believed that the Pinta Island tortoise population had become extinct until they discovered George. Now a resident of the Charles Darwin Research Station on Santa Cruz Island, Lonesome George is a symbol of conservation efforts and his tale is one that will open children's hearts and minds to environmental protection. Reading this story as a class is a perfect extension to a lesson on endangered tortoise species.

Lamfrom, D. (2010). *Tortoises through the lens: a visual exploration of a Mojave Desert icon*. San Diego, Calif.: Sunbelt Publications.

Students exploring the wild Mojave, cameras-in-hand, meeting wildflowers and wildlife face-to-face, while gaining a deeper understanding of the value of these lands - this is the Tortoises Through the Lens Program. This book is the product of their eighteen-month adventure to seek out, photograph, and learn about the desert tortoises and the harsh land that they inhabit. See this amazing creature through the eyes of these students, as they explore the starkly beautiful Mojave Desert Landscape. This book is a great introduction to the Tortoise Mass Lesson or Tortoise Movie Lesson.

Miller, S. S. (1999). *Turtles: life in a shell*. New York: Franklin Watts.

This book is just one in a series that describes how different living creatures are classified. Its straightforward descriptions cover traits of 15 different species of turtles, including freshwater turtles such as western pond turtles, terrestrial turtles such as box turtles and saltwater turtles such as leatherback turtles. It also includes basic information on how turtles fit into the animal kingdom. This book would help instructors tie together lesson on turtle species' unique adaptations.

Shaskan, T. S. (2010). *What's the difference between a turtle and a tortoise?*.

Minneapolis, Minnesota: Picture Window Books.

This book highlights many features that distinguish turtles from tortoises, which makes it a natural companion to any lesson requiring students to classify the two reptiles. It is presented in a clear and child-friendly way, which makes

it an excellent resource for upper grade students to use for research reports. Consider, however, that the book's language is geared more towards students in primary grades. This means instructors may need to expand its points for older students and use other books to supplement the content it presents.

Stanford, C. B. (2010). *The last tortoise: a tale of extinction in our lifetime*. Cambridge, Mass.: Belknap Press of Harvard University Press.

The tortoise and the hare? -- What exactly are tortoises and turtles? -- Live long and prosper -- No respect for the ancient lands -- Eating tortoises -- "Such huge deformed creatures" -- Beloved captives -- Are there solutions? -- Achilles and the tortoise -- Appendixes. Extremes of the tortoise world. Tortoises on the brink of extinction. Tortoise species. This book offers a wonderful link between the what children presume tortoises to be and what they really are. The last tortoise is a wonderful read to lead into the lesson where students create a brochure based upon information they acquire from this book and watching the USGS movie.

Kirkpatrick, D. T. (2008). *Aquatic turtles, a complete guide to sliders, cooters, maps, and more*. Tfh Pubns Inc.

This book is a good read for adults, but is also children friendly. It has interesting information about many species of aquatic and semi-aquatic turtles, including the red-eared pond slider. The photographs would be captivating in a classroom setting and this book would be a great tool to supplement any lesson about red-eared pond sliders or any aquatic or semi-aquatic turtle.

Reid, G. K., Zim, H. S., & Fichter, G. S. (2003). *Pond life: A guide to common plants and animals of North American ponds and lakes*. Golden Guides St. Martin's Press.

This book is a field guide about pond life written specifically for children. It includes basic information about pond life as well as great colored illustrations. It would work well with a habitat lesson about red-eared pond

sliders or any aquatic or semi-aquatic turtle habitat. It would also align with a field trip in which you could explore the habitat of a red-eared pond slider.